(vi) Pradeep Hotels for Lucknow and Varanasi Airports, Canara Cafetaria for Calicut and Coimbatore Airports, Bharat Hotels for Bangalore Airport, Oberoi Hotels for Chandigarh Airport and Taj Hotels for Jaipur Airport.

(c) and (d) Licences to firms are granted through call of tenders on the basis of their highest bid. The licensees are required to pay the amount of licence fee in advance on or before 10th day of each calendar month. Airports Authority of India receives sufficient security deposits in the form of bank guarantees/FDRs, and in case of default, the bank guarantees/FDRs are encashed.

Leasing of aerodromes

†2075. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Malaysia have requested the Indian counterpart to lease out the Chennai aerodrome;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are going to take some strategic decision to lease out Indian aerodromes; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been decided in principle to restructure the airports of Airports Authority of India as and when found suitable through long term lease. At present, the airports located at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have been taken up for this exercise. The process of selection of lessees would be undertaken through global competitive bidding.

(d) The key reasons for restructuring the airports through long term lease are to improve the standard of services and facilities at International airports; to facilitate infusion of private sector investments as also foreign direct investment in the airport sector; and to improve managerial efficiency.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.